

Notes and Observations

BUTTERFLIES IN BRECONSHIRE IN 1976. — What a year for butterflies! *Argynnis paphia* (L.) occurring nearly everywhere here, even among hedgerows. While other species, comparatively rare or local in previous years, also on the wing where never before noted, or—in some instances—in unwonted abundance, e.g. at least 18 *Strymonidia w-album* (Knock) around two or three elm saplings along a short stretch of lane near here.

While we were in a roadside woodland clearing near the junction of the rivers Elan and Wye on 8th July, my daughter Sarah netted a single *Argynnis adippe* (D. & S.) among the fairly numerous *A. aglaja* (L.) thereabouts. This appears to be the first confirmed Breconshire *adippe*. On 17th August, *Colias croceus* (Geoffroy) was twice seen in these parts. The first occasion was by Llanwrtyd church in N. Breconshire, when one flew rapidly past giving me just a glimpse of its unmistakable colour and shape, but my wife managed also to spot the markings. Later that day, a *croceus* flew over our heads while my family and I were picnicking in the delightful Doethie Gorge, near Rhandirmwyn, Carmarthenshire; and from where a little further on we counted 20 *Vanessa atalanta* (L.) on a small buddleia outside a cottage. — J. P. SANKEY-BARKER, Plas Llangattock, Crickhowell, Powys, NP8 1PA.

NYMPHALIS ANTIOPA (L.) IN NORTH-EAST ESSEX. — During August there was an immigration of Camberwell Beauties (*Nymphalis antiopa* L.) along the east coast. Between 17th August and the end of the month there were at least four sightings in North-east Essex and reports are coming in of further occurrences elsewhere in Essex. On 17th August, Mrs. G. M. Heaney, of Colchester Road, Chappel, nr. Colchester, saw one feeding with other Vanessids on a buddleia bush in the driveway of her home. The butterfly appeared to be in very fresh condition. On 21st August, Mr. Malcolm McVail, of Parsons Heath, Colchester, disturbed an *antiopa* which had been basking in the late afternoon sunshine on a log in his garden. He had close views of the butterfly as it flew backwards and forwards in the garden, noting the wing margins and also the apparently very fresh condition of the insect. The next day it was again seen in flight in the garden by Mr. McVail and three other observers. On 22nd August, Mr. R. W. Tickner saw and photographed an *antiopa* on a buddleia flower spike in the garden of his home at Orchard Road, Alresford, near Colchester. The butterfly was first noted in mid-morning and stayed on, and around, the buddleia bush until 6 p.m. On 24th August, Mr. Alan Whitworth, of Wix Lodge, Wix, near Harwich, had close views of an *antiopa* flying along a lane on his farm in brilliant morning sunshine. He commented that the butterfly's wing margins were a clear yellow and contrasted conspicuously with the velvety darkness of the wings. — J. FIRMIN, 1 Scott Drive, Lexden, Colchester, Essex.